Cross Heart

Presented by AnaKris

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I can see it every night.
As if it were happening again and again, endlessly
That hand strongly holding me
Stop it...
That sadistic grin
Stop it.

Stop it!
GASP
That moment...
No matter how many years may pass
It just keeps returning again and again.
PANT
PANT
Why?
Somebody save me from this darkness!
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HAGU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UH..
YO.. YOKO-CHAN..
THE CLEANING TURN IS FOR BOTH OF US.
DON'T EVEN THINK I WILL DO ALL THE WORK!
I-I WAS JUST TAKING A BREAK.
SLACKING AROUND AGAIN?
YEAH, SURE
AND WHAT WERE YOU STARING AT WITH SUCH INTEREST?
N-NO N-NOTHING!

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THAT'S ALL YOU DO LATELY
I-I'M NOT SPYING ON HER!
DON'T SAY THAT AS IF I WERE A STALKER!
YOU ARE A STALKER
EH..
UM..
OH.
I SEE.
YOU WERE SPYING ON KOTOMI AFAIN
I WONDER WHY SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SO LONELY
SO SAD
IT'S PURE... CURIO-SITY
CURIO-SITY?
EVEN IF SHE'S ALWAYS ALONE, SHE'S PRETTY POPULAR SHE GETS GOOD GRADES AND SHE'S GREAT IN ALMOST EVERYTHING
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT PERHAPS IS THAT LONELINESS THAT SURROUNDS HER...
WHAT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL THAT ATTRACTION TOWARDS HER
I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE
IT'S NOT JUST THAT SHE'S A LONELY PERSON

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UNREACHABLE.
BE-CAUSE THEY SEE HER SOME-HOW...
BUT NOT MANY PEOPLE APPROACH HER
Unreachable
She's just like Usagi-san
However it's so distant, so far away, that no matter how much you try...
You'd never be able to touch it.
It shines so much and so great is its charming that it makes you feel inevitably attracted by the beauty of its light.
IT'S TOO SAD
I DON'T THINK IT'S GOOD FOR ANYONE TO LIVE THAT WAY
YOU HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR HER UH?
-

DON'T BE STUPID!!
SHE CAUGHT MY ATTENT ON SINCE THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT PERHAPS?
ARE YOU CRAZY!?
THAT HURTS!!
When I first saw her... It was at the beginning of my first year in high school
No... I don't think it's like that
Love at first sight
Nostalgia
Was something resembling
What I felt when I looked at her...
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Something inside me was telling me that it we had met before!
But I couldn't remember when, or where...
It was a strange feeling.
UGH
DAMN IT, I OVER-SLEPT!
I'M LATE!

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HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS?
21
I'M SORRY
IT'S ONE OF THE LOWEST MARKS IN YOUR CLASS.
AT THIS RATE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PASS TO THE NEXT GRADE
USUALLY YOUR MARKS AREN'T EXACTLY GOOD
BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE ENOUGH
HOWEVER, WITH THIS FAILED TEST...
YOU'RE JUST A STEP AWAY FROM REPEATING THE YEAR
RETAKING TESTS ARE GETTING CLOSER, SO I THOUGHT THE BEST I CAN DO IS TO ARRANGE A TUTOR TO HELP YOU STUDYING
A TUTOR?
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN
SLIDE
DID YOU CALL ME SENSEI?

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What?!

YOU'RE GREAT!
I-IT'S NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL.
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND IT
OH!
AND HERE YOU HAVE THE ANSWER
AMAZING!
I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTAND THIS STUFF IN CLASS.
SO YOU ONLY NEED TO DO THIS OPERATION...

Ah, she's here...
At my house
Of course
Do you think so?
Now you only need to practice and I'm sure you will do great on the test.
Such beautiful eyes
I think it's the first time I see them so close
Ah!
Haru, stop thinking strange stuff or she will notice!
That's so kind
No wonder you're so popular at the school.
Oh, don't worry
I like to help if it's at my reach.
By the way, thank you for everything.
I hope I'm not bothering you.
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DO YOU THINK SO?
-
Somehow
KOTOMI?
I wanted to be the one putting that smile on her lips
That sad expression drawn in her face
I'M NOT THAT #ZEAT
-
Broke something inside me
And I realized That I didn't want to just see her true smile
IT'S GETTING LATE
WE WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW
OH ALRIGHT SEE YOU TOMORROW THEN
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I wanted to become...
the reason of her happiness.

And she...
Surprised at first
Would answer me shyly
Every time we exchanged glances
From that day on, I started waving at Kotomi..!!

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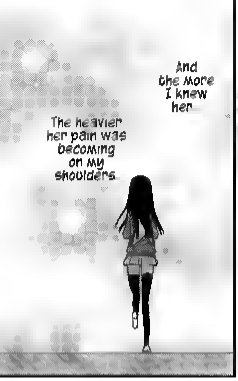

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What did just happen?
UHM...
I'M GOING TO PREPARE ONIGIRI!
WHAT FILLING DO YOU WANT?
TUNA?
TUNA.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT?
UM, ANYTHING IS OKAY.
HAHA
AL-RIGHT.
I... I LIKE TUNA.
BUT DON'T EXPECT MUCH.
I'M SURE YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME AT THESE THINGS.
HAHA HA
I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED
IT'S TRUE. ONCE I TRIED TO COOK THE SUPPER IN ORDER TO SURPRISE MY PARENTS AND I ALMOST BURNT THE KITCHEN SINCE THEN. I'M NOT ALLOWED TO COOK.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I'M A DISASTER WHEN IT COMES TO COOKING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

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SO... WELL...
MY PARENTS TRAVEL A LOT AND THEY'RE ALMOST NEVER AT HOME SO I ALWAYS EAT PRE-COOKED FOOD
I SEE THAT SOUNDS HARD
IT'S NOT A BIG TROUBLE I'M USED TO IT
BUT THAT'S NOT HEALTHY!
A PERSON CAN'T JUST FEED OF PRE-COOKED FOOD!
IT'S TIME YOU LEARN HOW TO COOK PROPERLY
SO YOU WON'T NEED TO DEPEND ON ANYONE ELSE.
THAT'S EASY TO SAY
I CAN TEACH YOU WHAT I KNOW EVEN IF IT'S NOT MUCH
IT'S JUST FAIR
YOU'RE HELPING ME WITH SCHOOL.
H-HOW CUTE!
...

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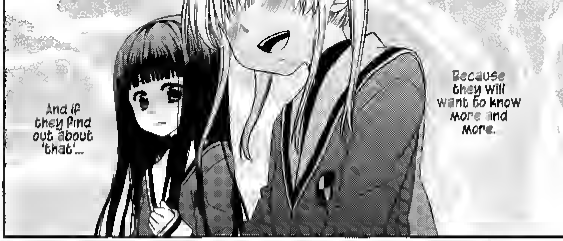
T-THAT'S A BEAR? OR A CAT?
UH... WELL...
AFTER THAT, THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO DO IS TO FILL AND SHAPE IT
FOR NOW YOU CAN BE MY ASSISTANT
ONIGIRI IS A REALLY EASY TO PREPARE DISH.
UGH
ONCE THE RICE IS BOILED, IT'S DIFFICULT TO SET SOMETHING ON FIRE
YEAH, YEAH, UH...
UM.
LIKE THIS?
?
PFT HAHA HA
SEEMS LIKE WE WILL HAVE TO WORK HARDER
What happened to you was horrible.
No one must know.
For that reason, you can't allow anyone to get close to you
What are you doing?
I'M SORRY



They will reject you.

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What went wrong?
DON'T TALK TO ME AGAIN WHEN WE MEET AT SCHOOL.
AH.
AND PLEASE
And then I understood it
Her cold words felt like a stab in my heart.

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End of Part A